

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: May 26, 2015
TIME: 6:30 P.M.
PLACE: Oxford City Hall
PRESENT: Mr. Mike Henderson, Council President Pro Tempore
Mrs. Charlotte Hubbard, Council Member
Mr. Chris Spurlin, Council Member

ABSENT: Mayor Leon Smith
Mr. Steven Waits, Council President
Mr. Phil Gardner, Council Member

The meeting was called to order by Council President Pro Tempore Mike Henderson and Shirley Henson, City Clerk of the City, served as the Clerk of the meeting.

Pastor Scott Smith of Antioch Baptist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Henderson asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Henderson stated that Mr. Waits and Mr. Gardner are absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Henderson stated each member of the Council had previously received a copy of the minutes of the May 12, 2015 regular meeting. Mrs. Hubbard made a motion that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Mr. Henderson called for any comments or questions; there being none, on roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard "Yea", Mr. Spurlin "Yea" and Mr. Henderson "Yea". The motion carried.

Public Hearing

Mr. Henderson declared the public hearing open for comments for or against the condemnation of the structure located at 535 Taylors Chapel Road.

Mr. Henderson recognized Mike Roberts, Building Inspector for comments.

Mr. Henderson declared the public hearing closed.

Resolution No. 2015-48 – Approving the actions of the Building Inspector that the building located at 535 Taylors Chapel Road, be destroyed or removed as soon as possible according to Ordinance 212, of the City of Oxford.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-48. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Henderson called for comments or questions. On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard “Yea”, Mr. Spurlin “Yea” and Mr. Henderson “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Henderson called for any old business; there was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 2015-49 – Resolution hiring Ron Allen as City Attorney.

Mr. Henderson read a resignation letter from Rice, Rice and Smith as City Attorney.

Mr. Henderson thanked Bruce Rice and Dwight Rice for the job they have done. I know it was a challenge to take on this role. John Phillips did the job for so many years and to step into that role and do the job with no municipal experience was a challenge to you and you did a great job. We appreciate all that you have done and the hard work you did for the City.

Mrs. Hubbard stated I would like to thank you for all the hard work you did on the Civil Service Act. I know that was something we didn’t have to do and it was a challenge but it was certainly something that needed to be done. I appreciate that.

Mr. Spurlin stated I know we have had a lot of things in the past year that have been unusual for a City and you have spent a few hours after hours dealing with it. I know I have gotten phone calls at 9 p.m. and you are still at work. I appreciate the job you have done and you have represented the City well. I know your heart is in the City and I appreciate the job you have done. Ron, I appreciate your willingness to accept this position. You have already represented the City in some cases and done an excellent job. I appreciate your willingness to step into where Bruce left off.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-49. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Henderson called for comments or questions.

Mr. Henderson recognized Ron Allen for comments. Mr. Henderson thanked Mr. Allen and stated we look forward to working with you. Mr. Allen has already done a good job for some matters for us and I know he will do a good job for us now.

Mr. Henderson read a letter from Mayor Smith.

On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard “Yea”, Mr. Spurlin “Yea” and Mr. Henderson “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2015-50 – Authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission for a Planning Status Assessment.

Mr. Henderson stated Bill Curtis with East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission has been here several times to talk to us about a strategic plan. We will be working with the Council, the Planning Commission and citizens to compile information to gather this plan. We will be working with Mr. Curtis and his staff to come up with the plan and we will be paying for half of it in the amount of \$27,500.00. East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission will pay the other half.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-50. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Mr. Henderson called for comments or questions.

Mrs. Hubbard stated I just appreciate the work. We’ve already got the Planning Commission working really hard on this to revamp a plan that we have been working from since 1973. I am very excited to work on this.

On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard “Yea”, Mr. Spurlin “Yea” and Mr. Henderson “Yea”. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2015-51 – Awarding the bid for wi-fi at the Oxford Recreational Complex.

Mr. Henderson stated we discussed this and the bid came in higher than we had hoped. We bid out the top of the line and extra capacities for the wi-fi project. We looked at a few ways to trim this and in order to do that we are going to have to change some of the specifications of what we are requiring. We will bid this back out with a different set of specifications with alternates.

Mr. Henderson called for a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-51. There was no motion therefore it dies.

Resolution No. 2015-52 – Resolution authorizing an Escrow Trust Agreement and related transactions in connection with the refunding of the City’s General Obligation School Warrants, Series 2005-B.

Mr. Henderson recognized Mr. Rice for comments. Mr. Rice stated that the school was in good standing and can now handle the bond issue.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-52. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Henderson called for comments or questions.

Mr. Henderson stated it is a good thing that the school system has gotten themselves in a good financial situation to where they have their own rating from Moody’s and are able to borrow

money themselves instead of borrowing money under the City's rating. That is good for the City and the school system.

On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard "Yea", Mr. Spurlin "Yea" and Mr. Henderson "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2015-53 – Amendment to Resolution No. 2015-47 for the Miracle League field.

Mr. Henderson stated Resolution No. 2015-47 had some wording issues that needed to be corrected for the grant to go through. This actually clarifies and corrects some of those items.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-53. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Mr. Henderson called for comments or questions.

Mr. Henderson stated we appreciate all the work that Aaron Sexton does on these grants.

On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard "Yea", Mr. Spurlin "Yea" and Mr. Henderson "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2015-54 – Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign the application for the 2015 CDBG Planning Fund Grant through ADECA and committing \$5,600.00 in local funds for the Downtown Revitalization Plan.

Mr. Henderson stated Diane Glenn with East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission came last meeting for a public hearing to discuss the downtown revitalization plan. We are applying for a grant to help with the revitalization of downtown.

Mr. Spurlin made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-54. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Mr. Henderson called for comments or questions. On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard "Yea", Mr. Spurlin "Yea" and Mr. Henderson "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 2015-55 – Change order for drainage improvements for the fire stations.

Mr. Henderson recognized Fire Chief Gary Sparks for comments.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2015-55. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Mr. Spurlin stated I would still like for us to check on this. We have already paid for this correction once and we are paying for a correction again with no guarantee that it will work. I would like for us to get something in writing.

Mr. Henderson stated we discussed this in the work session and it is one of those deals where the engineer says it is the contractors fault and the contractor says it is the engineers fault. We all agree that it needs to get done. Right now we are going to go ahead and do this in the amount of \$15,000.00. Hopefully, this will work.

Mr. Henderson called for comments or questions. On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard "Yea", Mr. Spurlin "Yea" and Mr. Henderson "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Mr. Henderson called for Council Comments.

Mr. Henderson recognized Rod Harris, Main Street Director for comments regarding the Lick Skillet Festival. Mr. Henderson stated we appreciate what you and your volunteers did and hopefully this is the first of many festivals and projects to come. We appreciate all the work you are putting in.

Mrs. Hubbard stated we did have the State Director here.

Mr. Henderson stated yesterday was Memorial Day and we want to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in our wars and those who are serving in the wars right now. One of the things we are looking at doing is upgrading our Veteran's Park to show our appreciation to those who have served in the military. Mrs. Hubbard is working on this and you may have seen that in *The Anniston Star*. We are looking to possibly move it to around the Oxford Lake area and I think it will be something to be proud of. We appreciate those that have served, are serving and those families who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We appreciate them not just on Memorial Day but year round.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Henderson stated Mayor Smith is absent.

Visitors

Mr. Henderson called for any comments or questions from anyone present. There were none.

Mr. Henderson stated at this time we are going to go into Executive Session and I will let Mr. Rice do his last official Council duty and explain why we are going into Executive Session for real estate items.

Mrs. Hubbard made a motion to go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spurlin.

Mr. Henderson called for comments or questions. On roll call the votes of the Council were as follows: Mrs. Hubbard "Yea", Mr. Spurlin "Yea" and Mr. Henderson "Yea". The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Henderson stated we will adjourn from the Executive Session.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mr. Spurlin made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hubbard.

Shirley Henson, City Clerk

Steven Waits, Council President